

## Message Text

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65-61

ORIGIN OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 SP-02 EA-06 PM-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 NSC-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 IO-03 L-01 INR-05 /042 R

DRAFTED BY OES/SCI/AE:JBLOOM:MER

APPROVED BY OES/SCI/AE:JBLOOM

ERDA - N. SIEVERING

EA/VN - MR. WENZEL

EA - MR. MILLER

PM/NPO - L. NOSENZO

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O 250117Z MAR 75 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066714

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM RESEARCH REACTOR SECURITY

REF: STATE 031164; 062177, 065363; SAIGON 3267, 3311

1. DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY DEPARTMENT AND ERDA,  
PENDING GVN AGREEMENT, TO REMOVE FUEL FROM DA LAT RE-  
SEARCH REACTOR BY USE OF AIR FORCE SPECIAL AIR MISSION  
AND U.S. CIVILIAN TECHNOLOGISTS. CIVILIANS WOULD DEPART  
FOR SAIGON BY SEPARATE COMMERCIAL AIR CRAFT AND REPORT  
TO EMBASSY ON ARRIVAL. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO PROVIDE  
COORDINATOR TO ACCOMPANY ENGINEERS TO DA LAT AS ADVANCE  
PARTY TO SURVEY TECHNICAL SITUATION. NAMES OF CIVILIANS  
TENTATIVELY ARE: JOHN HORAN AND WALDEMAR HENDRICKSON,  
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BOTH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OF U.S. ERDA, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO.

DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION THIS RESPECT.

2. IN MEANTIME, SHIPPING CASKS SUITABLE FOR DA LAT REACTOR FUEL WILL BE AIRLIFTED FROM WASHINGTON TO SAN DIEGO, WHERE ADDITIONAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT WOULD BE LOADED ON THE AIR CRAFT BY THE PRIVATE COMPANY WHICH FURNISHED THE DA LAT REACTOR. AIRCRAFT WOULD WAIT IN SAN DIEGO UNTIL TECHNOLOGISTS AT DA LAT HAVE INSURED THAT

ALL NECESSARY SUPPLIES ARE ON HAND OR WILL BE ON BOARD AIR CRAFT. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAM AIRCRAFT NOW BEING DISCUSSED WITH DOD.

3. EMBASSY SAIGON IS REQUESTED TO SEEK GVN AGREEMENT TO THE REMOVAL AND SAFEGUARDING OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL AT THE DA LAT REACTOR SOONEST. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE GVN THE GVN IS REQUIRED TO RETURN THE NUCLEAR FUEL TO USG IF IT CANNOT MAKE APPROPRIATE PAYMENTS. THE LEASE EXPIRED ON 12/31/74 AFTER THE GVN NOTIFIED US THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE THE PAYMENTS. ALTHOUGH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR REPOSSESSION BY THE UNITED STATES THE REAL PURPOSE IN REMOVING THE FUEL IS TO INSURE THAT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED AND PREVENT MISUSE OF THE FUEL SHOULD THE REACTOR FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. INASMUCH AS THE REACTOR HAS NOT BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME, REMOVAL OF THE FUEL WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ANY ONGOING RESEARCH AT DA LAT. FURTHERMORE, THE USG IS PREPARED TO ARRANGE FOR NEW FUEL FOR THE REACTOR, WHEN APPROPRIATE, SHOULD THE GVN WISH TO RESUME REACTOR OPERATION. PROMPT GVN APPROVAL AND EMBASSY REPLY REQUIRED TO PERMIT MISSION TO PROCEED.

4. FOR U.S. MISSION IAEA: REQUEST YOU ADVISE DIRECTOR GENERAL IAEA CONFIDENTIALLY OF ACTIONS BEING TAKEN AND BASIS FOR DOING SO, POINTING OUT THAT USG RECOGNIZES THAT FUEL IS UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS AND THAT NECESSARY TRANSFER FORMS WILL BE EXECUTED IN DUE TIME, IF REMOVAL OF FUEL IS ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY. MISSION ALSO REQUESTED TO POINT OUT TO DG THAT USG HAS DECIDED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE THIS ACTION, INVOLVING CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE AND SOME RISK, IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT SAFEGUARDS CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED AND THAT MATERIAL WILL NOT BECOME SUBJECT TO MISUSE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH POINT OF VIEW, OR OTHERWISE BE OF CONCERN OR EMBARRASSMENT TO U.S. AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR PROGRAM IN GENERAL. MISSION SHOULD KEEP DG INFORMED OF FURTHER EVENTS AS THEY OCCUR, BUT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS ONLY. IF PUBLIC SHOULD BE-

COME AWARE OF OPERATION, IT COULD BE PLACED IN CON-  
SIDERABLE JEOPARDY. MISSION REQUESTED TO ADVISE ASAP  
OF DG'S REACTION. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, SECURITY, NUCLEAR REACTORS, EVACUATION PLANS  
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